

Message Text

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SUBJ: UNICEF PLEDGING CONFERENCE FOR 1975

SUMMARY: UNICEF PELDGING CONFERENCE FOR 1975 WAS HELD AT UNITED NATIONS, NOVEMBER 7. PLEDGES ANNOUNCED OR ANTICIPATED (MOST SUBJECT TO PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL) TO UNICEF TOTAL \$64.2 MILLION. NINETY-FOUR GOVERNMENTS PARTICIPATED IN THE CONFERENCE. END SUMMARY.

1. UNICEF'S FIRST PLEDGING CONFERENCE WAS HELD AT THE UN HEADQUARTERS IN NEW YORK, NOVEMBER 7. NINETY-FOUR GOVERNMENTS PLEDGED \$61.7 MILLION IN AN EFFORT TO HELP THE AGENCY REACH ITS GOAL OF \$100 MILLION BY 1975. ANOTHER \$2.5 MILLION IS ANTICIPATED BUT CONTRIBUTORS WERE UNABLE TO MAKE PLEDGES DURING CONFERENCE. FIFTY GOVERNMENTS MADE PLEDGES HIGHER THAN IN 1974 AND 7 CONTRIBUTED FOR SPECIFIC PROGRAMS (\$5.4 MILLION).

2. LARGEST DONORS WERE THE US. \$15 MILLION AND SWDEEN \$12 MILLION. OTHER LARGE CONTRIBUTORS INCLUDE: AUSTRALIA, \$1.1 MIOLION; DENMARK, \$1.5 MILLION; FRANCE, \$2 MILLION; FRG, \$3.1 MILLION; INDIA, \$1.3. MILLION; BORWAY, \$4 MILLION; SWITZERLAND, \$1.8. MILLION AND THE UK \$3.5 MILLION. JAPAN WAS UNABLE TO MAKE A PLEDGE BEACUSE THE GOVERNMENT BUDGET IS NOT PREPARED. DELEGATE SAID THAT JAPAN WILL CONTRIBUTE

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AT LEAST \$1.8 MILLION.

IRAN TRIPLED ITS CONTRUBTION BY PLEDGING \$1 MILLION.

3. PLEDGES OF OPEC COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN CONFERENCE WERE HIGHER THAN IN THE PAST BUT NOT EXCESSIVELY SO, WITH EXECPTION OF IRAN. 0-458:80-,5 8.;)7\$3\$: ALGERIA, \$85,000; ECUADOR, \$25,000; INDONEISA, \$150,000; IRAN, \$121,000; OMAN, \$50,000; NIGERIA, NO PLEDGE SINCE PARLIAMENT HAS NOT ACTED; QATAR, \$200,000; SAUDI ARABIA, \$500,000; UNITED ARAB EMIRATES, \$100,000. VENEZUELA, INCREASED ITS CONTRIBUTION BY 57 PERCENT BUT DOLLAR FIGURE WAS NOT ANNOUNCED.

4. THERE WERE SEVERAL NOTABLE PERCENTAGES INCREASES: FINALAND, 35 PERCENT TO \$825,000 PERU A 20 PERCENT INCREASE TO \$120,000; SWEDEN A 10 PERCENT INCREASE. MOST STAGGERING INCREASE WAS TUNISIA. IN 1974 GOT CONTRIBUTED \$27,000. THE PLEDGE FOR 1975 IS \$303,734 OR A 1,021 PERCENT INCREASE.

5. SEVERAL EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES HAD PERCENTAGE INCREASE. ALL CONTRIBUTIONS WERE IN LOCAL CURRENCY: BULGARIA, 75 PERCENT; HUNGARY 50 PERCENT; POLAND 50 PERCENT INCREASE.

6. THE SESSION WAS CHAIRED BY AMB. NARCISCO REYES (PHILIPPINES) A FORMER CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UNICEF. UNDER SECRETARY GENERAL PHILIPPE DESEYNES OPENED THE SESSION WITH A CLEAR, CONCISE STATEMENT STRESSING THE IMPORTANCE OF RESPONDING TO THE NEEDS OF YOUNG CHILDREN WHO ARE IMPORTANT HUMAN RESOURCE FOR FUTURE DEVELOPMENT. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF UNICEF HENRY LABOUISSSE, NOTED THAT QUOTE THIS FIRST PLEDGING CONFERENCE OCCURS AT A TIME WHEN THE NEED FOR UNICEF ASSISTANCE HAS NEVER BEEN GREATER UNQUOTE. TO REACH THE GOAL, HE SAID THAT SOME \$16 MILLION MORE IS NEEDED IN ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT IS EXPECTED IN 1974 MR. LABOUISSSE SAID THAT A SERIES OF EMERGENCIES HAD INCREASED THE NEED FOR AN INCREASE IN SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS. IN ADDITION THERE WILL BE THE NEED FOR SUBSTANTIAL FUNDS TO MEET THE NEW AND INCREASING REQUIREMENTS OF CHILDREN RESULTING FROM THE CURRENT ECONOMIC CRISES. THE DIRECTOR ANNOUNCED THAT HE WAS LEAVING FOR THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE IN ROME IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE PLEDGING CONFERENCE. SCALI

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